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ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST, P.O. BOX 19276, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276

THOMAS V. SKINNER, DIRECTOR

September 26, 2000

Ms. Jeanne Griffin
Emergency Response Branch
Region V Offices
Office of Superfund
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Ms. Griffin:

Please find enclosed a copy of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Handlers Assessment Report and site recommendation for the following sites slated for completion in our Fiscal 2000 Site Assessment cooperative agreement.

| SITE NAME | COUNTY | CERCLA RECOMMENDATION |
|----------------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| Ekco Housewares 074418310 | Cook | No |
| Anaconda-Ericson 062406608 | DeKalb | Yes |

We are pleased to provide you with the attached report. Should you have any questions or comments concerning this submission please feel free to contact me, or the authors of the specific report.

Sincerely,

Thomas Crause
Manager, Site Assessment Programs
Division of Remediation Management
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

GEORGE H. RYAN, GOVERNOR

**RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY
ACT
HANDLERS ASSESSMENT**

For:

**Anaconda- Ericsson
Sycamore, Illinois**

**PREPARED BY:
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
BUREAU OF LAND
FEDERAL SITES REMEDIATION SECTION
SITE ASSESSMENT UNIT**

SEPTEMBER 2000

Introduction

On June 29, 1999, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's (Illinois EPA) Site Assessment Program was tasked by the Region 5 offices of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to undertake an initial assessment of several Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) facilities within the state of Illinois. These facilities are presently listed in the RCRA database, but are not subject to RCRA's corrective action authorities and are currently referred to as RCRA "handlers". This RCRA Handlers Assessment Report is designed to identify facilities that may pose a threat to human health or the environment. It will also determine if placement of these facilities onto the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Inventory System (CERCLIS) is warranted.

Site History

In the initial phase of this Handler's Report, the author conducted a review of all IEPA Bureau of Land files for the Anaconda Ericsson (A-E) facility located at 421 North California in Sycamore, Illinois. A-E, Inc. started its operations at this facility in 1890. By 1973, the company employed approximately 1,000 people and operated three shifts per day. The facility consists of seven buildings. Three of the buildings were used for the wire manufacturing process and one was used for storing finished product. One of the remaining three buildings was used for shipping (with a paint spray booth at one end), one was for machine parts storage, and the last building was the Hazardous Waste Storage Building (SWMU 1) of which half was used for general storage. The facility property consists of 27.55 acres of which 650,000 square feet is under one roof. A-E ceased operations at the facility in 1983. All of the buildings are still in existence and the facility is presently owned by Sycamore Industrial Park Associates. Very little information is

available about the facility's history and ownership. The facility has been used for the wire manufacturing business since 1890. Before 1890, the facility property was open land. The facility was initially called the Chicago Insulated Company and it is not known when the name was changed to Anaconda-Ericsson, Inc. In approximately 1979, the magnet wire operation plant was shut down and moved to Carrollton, Kentucky. In February 1983, the A-E plant was shut down. A certification of closure letter by an independent registered professional engineer was submitted to the IEPA on November 16, 1983. At that time, Anaconda-Ericsson, Inc., was the operator of the facility and the owner was Ericsson Radio Systems. The facility's history of waste generation and management, throughout the tenure of the various operations and owners, is unknown.

In 1985, the facility was sold to Sycamore Industrial Park who is the present owner of the facility and they can supply little information about A-E. The facility is currently operating as a light industrial park; no hazardous waste activities are taking place on site.

Site Description

The A-E, Inc. facility manufactured copper and aluminum wire and cable. The process consisted of wire drawing (reducing the size or diameter of the wire per specifications) and insulating the wire by an extrusion process. The insulation consisted of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or polyethylene. Some wire was shipped bare and some with a varnish coating. The copper wire process was accomplished by drawing (pulling) the wire through various size metal dies. A combination coolant and lubricant solution was used in the drawing operation. It consisted of 60 percent water and 40 percent synthetic oil. This noncommercial product coolant/lubricant solution was stored in a 3,000-gallon tank adjacent to the drawing operation. Some of the copper

wire went through a tinning operation, which consisted of drawing the wire through a muriatic acid bath for cleaning, through burlap material for a wipe operation, through “Blackstone” flux (inert), and then through the tinning bath. The flux is used to help the tin adhere to the wire. The muriatic acid was delivered to A-E in 55-gallon drums. The next step in the operation was the insulation covering which was performed by plastic extrusion. The process consisted of applying heat, melting the plastic, extruding, and cooling. The aluminum wire process was basically identical to the copper drawing and extrusion-type insulation operation with some exceptions. The wire drawing operation used petroleum-based oil for the coolant/lubricant. A-E also manufactured magnet wire that was coated with varnish. This wire was used for transformers and alternators. The magnet wire process was performed from February 1973 to approximately 1979 and was moved to Carrollton, Kentucky in 1979. The coating operation consisted of drawing the wire through a 2-cubic-foot varnish bath and up through a drying tower where heat was applied by an air-drying operation. This operation would apply about five coats of varnish before completion of the process.

There were eight Underground Storage Tanks and all have either been removed or abandoned in place. Two separate releases from a heating oil UST and a gasoline UST were reported to IEMA and are currently in the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Section. The heating oil release has been addressed and they have received a “no further remediation” letter. The gasoline release received a “High Priority” classification and is subject to further corrective action.

In September of 2000, a site reconnaissance was conducted to determine current site conditions. The facility is currently operating as a light industrial park and no hazardous waste activities are taking place on site.

Pathway Analysis

The city of Sycamore receives its drinking water from municipal water supply wells. The nearest drinking water well is located **Non-** southwest of the facility. There is no site-specific information available, but based on the location of the river, the facility, and the wells; it is assumed that the wells are upgradient of the facility.

The facility is bordered on the north by city property, which contains a 7-acre pond (gravel pit filled with water), with one house located between the property and the facility; on the west by a residential area, open land, and Northern University Engineering School; on the south by a residential area and an abandoned railroad line; and on the east by a small residential area, a section of the Kishwaukee River, and light industry. Fences and security guards control facility access.

The nearest perennial surface water body is the Kishwaukee River which is located approximately 1,300 feet northeast of the facility. This surface water body discharges into the Rock River, which ultimately discharges into the Mississippi River. Surface water drainage at the facility is through a storm sewer system to the northeast toward the Kishwaukee River.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Given the quantity and nature of waste generated at this facility, the known waste disposal practices of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, and the fact that this facility is located near some residential areas, this reviewer recommends that the facility be added to the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act's Information Database and be the subject of a fiscal year 2001 CERCLA Integrated Assessment.



Superfund Site Assessment Data Management

EPA - Office of Emergency and Remedial Response

Reporting RCRA Deferral Activities

July 2000

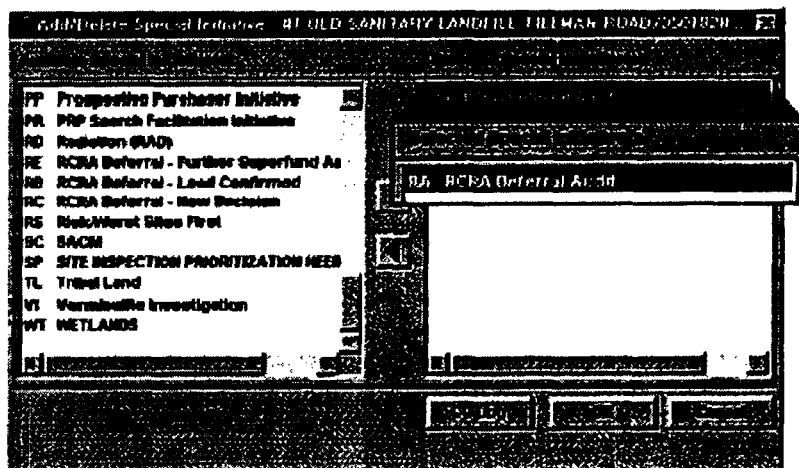
What are RCRA Deferral Sites?

A March 1999 report by EPA's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) identified 2,941 Superfund sites that have been deferred to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)



program. The OIG report determined that 842 sites are being appropriately addressed under RCRA, and 2,099 need further attention.

EPA has developed two measures to track and evaluate these 2,099 sites in WastELAN. First, EPA Headquarters will flag the sites using the existing "RCRA Deferral Audit" Special Initiative, and Regions will be able to enter one of the following three new Special Initiatives: RCRA Deferral—Lead Confirmed; RCRA Deferral—New Decision; or RCRA Deferral—Further Assessment. The second measure adds a new WastELAN action, "Site Reassessment", that will track reassessment activities at sites.



How Will Tracking RCRA Deferral Sites Benefit EPA?

Use of the one existing and three new Special Initiatives and the new WastELAN action, "Site Reassessment," will allow EPA to:

- Readily identify the OIG RCRA deferral sites and accurately report their current status;
- Effectively track reassessment activities, recording dates and fiscal year accomplishments; and
- Receive proper credit for reassessment work performed in the Regions.

Additionally, these new initiatives allow the Regions to track the status of RCRA deferral sites that were identified in the 2,099 sites needing further attention. The new "Site Reassessment" action does not replace current assessment actions; it serves as a supplement in instances when some assessment is needed to evaluate new information on a site, yet a full assessment action is not warranted under the Superfund program.

How Will Regional Staff Maintain RCRA Deferral Activities?

Regions will be responsible for entering the new WastELAN Special Initiatives. The new Regional Special Initiatives are:

- RCRA Deferral—Lead Confirmed: Indicates that the RCRA-Deferral decision was accurate; i.e., there is no change to the current RCRA deferral status.
- RCRA Deferral—New Decision: Indicates that EPA is correcting or changing the currently-listed decision from "Deferred to RCRA" to another indicator.
- RCRA Deferral—Further Superfund Assessment: Indicates that EPA needs to conduct further assessment to update the status. (This initiative should be used in conjunction with the new Site Reassessment action.)

Regions will also be responsible for recording Site Reassessment activities using the new WastELAN action.



rcradfml.pdf

Who Can I Contact for More Information?

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WastELAN Techline (703) 247-4711 techline@marasconewton.com